GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4403
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2001
TOBACCO PROHIBITION
A.K. PREMAJAM

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Trade Union have requested Honourable Prime Minister to direct to Health Ministry to withdraw the cigarettes and other products (prohibition of advertisements and regulation of trade and commerce, production supply and distribution) Bill 2001 until suitable measures are taken for alternative employment for tobacco farmers and tobacco and beedi workers;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) to (c) : The Government have received representations from Central Trade Unions in regard to reconsidering Government`s move to enact the proposed Bill namely, `The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce Production and Distribution) Bill, 2001`, which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 7.3.2001.The Trade Unions have expressed the fear that enactment of the said Bill will lead to unemployment of traders and people engaged in Tobacco Products Industry. The following are the salient features of the said Bill :

- To prohibit the advertisement of all tobacco products and to provide for its regulation in trade and commerce.

- To prohibit smoking in public places.

- To prohibit selling of tobacco products to persons below the age of 18 years.

- Indication of nicotine and tar contents on the packets.

- Indication of the warning on the package in English as well as Indian languages.

- Total ban on sponsoring any sport/cultural events by cigarettes and other tobacco products companies.

- Empowering Sub Inspectors of Police or equivalent officers of State Food or Drug Administration to carry out the provisions of this legislation and confiscation to the goods in case of any violation. However, the owner of the goods will be given the option to pay a fine in lieu of the confiscation which should be equal to the value of the goods confiscated.

- Imposition of a fine up to Rs. 200 for minor offences relating to smoking in public places, sale of tobacco products.

There are no proposal to ban tobacco in any form, and none of the provisions of

The Bill are expected to directly affect the employment of the workers in the tobacco Industry.

The Bill now stands referred to the Department related Standing Committee on Human Resources Development of the Rajya Sabha for examination.